

A. P. A.

AN INQUIRY

INTO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES OF THE
SO-CALLED

“AMERICAN PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.”

Gift
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"AMERICAN PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION."

The national headquarters of this association are in the Metropolitan Life Insurance Building, in New York City, and the national board of managers consisted November 15th, 1893, of Messrs. John Jay, William F. Morgan, Churchill Cutting, James W. King, Josiah Strong, W. W. Hoppin and T. J. Morgan. The press telegram, which announced the general A. P. A. Board meeting, gave also a statement of principles of the Order, presumably on the authority of some one at its headquarters. Thus they were stated:

"The objects of the A. P. A. are to secure constitutional and legislative safeguards for the protection of common schools and other American institutions, and to promote public instruction in harmony with such institutions; also, to prevent all sectarian or denominational appropriations of public funds."

If a full, free and open discussion of topics, such as those above mentioned as "Objects", were the real purpose

of the organization, but little fault could be found. This association, as exposed by the *St. Paul Globe* and the *Chicago Herald*, however, obliges its members to take an iron bound religious and political oath on his initiation, which fact suggests considerations not suggested in the avowed "Objects".

Some of the A. P. A. purposes, while not publically admitted, are scarcely, or not at all, concealed in the outside propaganda of the Order; others are more carefully reserved, while still others are denied, except in confidential communications with persons known to be in sympathy with the conspiracy. Of the first class is the settled opposition of the A. P. A. to all persons of foreign birth, its determination if possible to deprive them of any share in the government of the country; and its purpose to make a supreme effort to secure a change in the naturalization laws, so that persons coming to this land from other countries, shall be denied the rights of citizenship, until after twenty-one years of continuous residence. Members of the A. P. A. are pledged to oppose the candidacy of every foreign born person for any office in the gift of the people; but exception is made in favor of foreigners already naturalized, who are Protestants and members of, or sympathizers with the A. P. A. "Put none but Americans on Guard" is one of the maxims preached in their lodges, as it was in the know-nothing lodges of a former generation.

These principles are publically admitted; those kept for the private ear of its members are embodied in the following oath as exposed by the *Chicago Herald*:

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THE OATH OF THE A. P. A.

A COPY OF WHAT IS SAID TO BE THE OBLIGATION ASSUMED BY THOSE WHO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-CATHOLIC SOCIETY.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—A *Herald* special from Oshkosh, Wis., is as follows: The A. P. A. is just now attracting a great deal of attention in different sections of the country. Subjoined is the obligation of the Order:—

"I, ———, do most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, without mental reservation or evasion, that I will not reveal anything that I have seen, heard, or supposed to any person in the known world who is not entitled to know the same, and then only in such a manner as is prescribed to those entitled to know the same, and that I will furthermore not reveal, disclose, or forward by word, sign, or letter, nor through insinuation or writing of any kind, anything which I see, hear, or discover, referring to this organization. I further swear upon my honor as a man breathing and living, believing in the existence of a God and an eternity, that I have not presented myself to spy for my own advantage nor in the interest of any person or persons, nor have I come here out of inquisitiveness, but with the upright determination of allying myself with those whose object is to preserve this community from dangers which threaten to destroy it.

"I further swear that I have not come here to gain admission for the objects of any society whatever, organized or to be organized, any institute, college, or class whatsoever, nor any religious organization, especially the Roman Catholic Church, of this country or any other country, nor for the purposes of any priest, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, or the Pope of Rome himself, his agents or confederates, nor to divulge any act, action, command, or obligation of this Order by word, sign, or deed."

Here follows the oath and a further obligation, which is as follows:—

"I do most solemnly promise and swear that I will not allow any one a member of the Roman Catholic Church to become a member of this Order, I knowing him to be such; that I will use my influence to promote the interests of all Protestants everywhere in the world; that I will not employ a Roman Catholic in any capacity if I can procure the services of a Protestant; that I will not aid in building or maintaining by my resources any Roman Catholic Church or institution of their creed or sect whatever, but will do all in my power to retard and break down the power of the Pope; that I will not enter into any controversy with a Roman Catholic upon the subject of this Order, nor will I enter into any agreement with a Roman Catholic, or strike or create a disturbance whereby the Roman Catholic employes may undermine and substitute the Protestants; that in all grievances I will seek only Protestants and counsel with them to the exclusion of all Roman Catholics, and will not make known to them anything of any nature matured at such conferences; that I will not countenance the nomination by any caucus or convention of a Roman Catholic for any office in the gift of the American people, and that I will not vote for nor counsel others to vote for any Roman Catholic, but will vote only for Protestants; that I will endeavor at all times to place the political positions of this Government in the hands of Protestants. To all of which I do most solemnly promise and swear, so help me God, Amen."

That this secret political society is unpatriotic, vicious and despicable in its character and organization, is already acknowledged by the leading exponents of respectable citizenship, official and private. That it is, furthermore, dangerous to the state, illegal, unconstitutional and treasonable, will be demonstrated.

Article 3, of Section VI, of the Constitution of the United States, says :

“But no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States. * * * * Congress shall make no laws respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

It does not require the trained legal mind of a Supreme Court lawyer to deduce the fact that, in calling upon citizens of the United States to swear before Almighty God that they will never vote for any foreigner or adherant of the Catholic Church for any elective office, the A. P. A. does apply such a “religious test” as is clearly prohibited in the Constitution. It is equally clear that, when the Constitution explicitly declares that no laws shall be made in the United States prohibiting the free exercise of religion, that instrument, the highest human law Americans know, is directly and grossly violated when the peaceful and upright exercise of their religion by any class of people, great or small, shall bring upon them social disadvantages and political disfranchisement.

It is not overstating the fact to assert that, as to these oaths and obligations, the society in administering them, and

its members in adopting them, are guilty of, at least, constructive treason.

There is a class of persons, who are active, although as a rule secretly, members of this A. P. A. organization, and who have knowingly, wilfully and with premeditation, added the definite crime of perjury to their other offences, and, for anything that appears to the contrary, rather pride themselves upon the fact.

Considering the extent to which the A. P. A. has been manipulated, in sundry Western states and places, in connection with the political interests of a certain faction, it would not be strange if its bad influence had been potent enough to successfully apply the religious tests denounced by the Constitution, and thus to control elections against candidates chancing to be of the Catholic faith, by their customary methods of denunciation, and by the intimidation of voters, who, otherwise, would have given their suffrages to the victims of the religious persecution. Such occurrences are so likely that it has been openly claimed in the press of various cities, that honorable citizens have been defeated as candidates for the House of Representatives of the United States, and persons seated in their places, through the illegal and unconstitutional plots and practices of the A. P. A. conspirators. It has been boldly charged, on the floor of Congress, that there was enough ground for such a suspicion, in the case of an election held in the 8th Michigan Congressional District, as to render proper the appointment of a special committee of Congress to investigate the affair.

THE A. P. A. IN CONGRESS.

On the 28th day of October, 1893, the Hon. T. A. E. Weadock, a Member of Congress from the State of Michigan, rose in his place and said:

“Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of high privilege, touching the validity of the election of a member now occupying a seat upon this floor. I have here the petition of Mr. Henry M. Youmans, of the Eighth District of Michigan, a member of the last house and a candidate for election as a member of this House, alleging that for various reasons, which he specifies in his petition, the election of the sitting member is not legal and valid, and asking that it be enquired into by such means as the House shall determine to be proper.”

“In connection with this matter I might say that it will involve an investigation of the existence and animus of a society which has become very general throughout the United States — a society which the petitioners and others contend is un-American, illegal, and, under the Constitution of the State of Michigan, a treasonable organization. This society has gone to the length of ordering arms —”

Being interrupted at this point Mr. Weadock, afterwards, continued:

“This society, which exists in several states, has become particularly offensive in the Eighth District of Michigan. Some of its members have gone to the extent of ordering arms in large numbers, from the manufacturers of firearms in this country, and it is alleged that a reign of terror

exists there owing to the machinations of this organization. I do not deem it proper at this time to go into the allegations of the petition."

These remarks of Mr. Weadock created not a little surprise in the House of Representatives, and it became evident at once that they were anything but comfortable for some members on the floor. An immediate, and for the time successful, effort was made to squelch Mr. Weadock and the threatened investigation. It was his desire to secure a special committee with authority to sit where necessary, to administer oaths, and to send for persons and papers, and he introduced a resolution to that effect. This proposition was strenuously opposed by representative A. J. Hopkins of Illinois, and, principally through his active opposition, the resolution was withdrawn. When the same or similar matter shall again be presented in Congress, it probably will be found that any attempt to reach, investigate or punish the treasonable organization, or its constituent conspirators will be met with strong objection from others besides Mr. A. J. Hopkins, of Illinois. On any such occasion the debate which will surely ensue, as well as the personality of members participating in it, and their attitude severally as to the question, whatever it may be specifically, will be of peculiar interest.

The best of reasons exist why Americans, interested in the due observances of our Constitution and laws, and in the perpetuity of our free institutions, should carefully note what may happen in the Capitol in this connection. It has been ascertained, beyond any reasonable doubt, that, in the

present Congress of the United States there are sitting members who are also active officers or members of the A. P. A. These public officials, repositories of the dignity and honor of the imperial power of the American Legislature, have taken a solemn oath to support the Constitution of the United States. They have likewise taken several oaths before Almighty God at the altars of **A. P. A.** lodges to violate it, and to do their utmost to oppress, harass, persecute, hold up to scorn and public hatred, injure in business, deprive of employment and the means of earning bread, a vast aggregation of good and true fellow American citizens, whose lives, liberties, rights and proper privileges are solemnly guaranteed in and by that great instrument.

For the time being it will suffice to call attention to their presence in the Capitol. They, themselves, will be certain to disclose their personality whenever Mr. Weadock, or some other respectable member, shall propose to investigate the character, purposes and overt acts of the A. P. A. If the seventy-five ordinary citizens, members of the A. P. A. in Buffalo, New York, who were recently presented to the grand jury on the charge of "conspiracy", their offence consisting of membership in an Order which teaches violence and treason, were sufficiently criminal to be subject to such action, what course should be taken with members of Congress who are members of the same society?

SEARCHING FOR ARMS IN SAGINAW.

At a mass meeting composed of citizens of Saginaw, Michigan, the Honorable T. E. Tarsney, Member of Congress

from that state, gave a clear and biting exposition of the A. P. A. outrages in the great lumber centre. A report was circulated to the effect that the Catholic citizens of Saginaw had procured several thousand stand of arms, with ammunition, and that the same had been stored in the basements and cellars of the Catholic Churches of the town; also that all adult male Catholics were nightly drilling in obscure places, preparatory to a general massacre of Protestants. Following these Saginaw manifestations, the New York *Independent*, a fair dealing and high class Protestant journal with a national circulation, characterized the A. P. A. methods, described above, as "criminal and dastardly"; and so indeed the sense and respectability of the whole country pronounce them. They have not been confined to any one locality or region, but have broken out as locally epidemic in many places, and always under conditions of such similarity, that no one can doubt the connection with and direction of each and all at some central headquarters.

The "concealed arms" *canard*, which worked so brilliantly in Michigan, was again exploited by the A. P. A. in Toledo, Ohio. According to the *News* of that city, the services of a Deputy Sheriff of the county, a man named Stanbery, were enlisted to spread the report. The *News* account says: "For some time past Deputy Sheriff Stanbery has been circulating a story which he declares he can prove. He says that in the basement of every Catholic Church in Toledo there are arms and ammunition stored away, and that the object of this collection is the uprising of the Catholic people at a given signal, and the slaught-

ering of every Protestant." A number of gentlemen interested were escorted around among the Catholic Churches by a *News* representative, shown into every nook and corner capable of concealing anything, and finally forced to admit that the whole tale had been a complete and baseless invention.

TROOPS TO PUT DOWN CATHOLICS!

In Indiana, owing to the strong affiliation between the Republican party locally and the A. P. A., and its consequent conclusion that the defeat of the party in 1892 was due to Catholic influence, the effort was made by this society to blacken the character of the people of Indiana, who were presumed to have contributed so effectively to the defeat of the party. Everywhere the A. P. A.'s declared that, on a certain night, the Catholics would rise and massacre every Protestant in his bed. In a phrensy of fear, genuine or assumed, committees of the A. P. A. sought Governor Matthews, beseeching him to authorize the enrollment and organization of a military force to put down the Catholics, and was urged to issue state arms at once to the A. P. A. for general purposes. It need hardly be added that these applications were met with contemptuous refusal and stern rebuke from the State Executive. Commenting on the occurrence, the Indianapolis *Sentinel* observed: "The application in itself was a foul slander and calumny, put into the heads of weaklings by designing knaves. The total population of this country is 62,622,250, of whom 6,250,045, or a little less than one-tenth are Catholics. The total population of Indiana is 2,192,404,

of whom 119,100, or a little over one-nineteenth are Catholics. Now even if the Catholics had any desire to get control of the country by violence (which is a malicious and wicked falsehood), can any sane person believe they would undertake to overthrow ten times their own number of other people? Does any one imagine that an Indiana Catholic would undertake to subdue 19 of his neighbors—Protestants, Jews, Atheists and all? It is humiliating that, in a state like Indiana, which boasts of its public schools and the general intelligence of its people, any person should be found so deficient in common sense as to believe these outrageous lies."

DENOUNCED BY DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS.

Addressing a large audience, composed of people representing the highest culture in New England, at Boston, on the 15th of November, 1893, the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, U. S. Civil Service Commissioner, said :

"The Knownothing movement, in every form, is entirely repugnant to true Americanism, and that is, perhaps, especially the case when it is directed not merely against American citizens of foreign origin, but also against even native born Americans of a different creed. We Americans give to men of all races equal and exact justice. That has been our boast as a Nation ever since the day when the Puritans of Massachusetts and the Catholics of Maryland sat in the same hall and signed the same Declaration of Independence."

This utterance is so thoroughly consistent with what all decent Americans have believed to be the patriotic faith of

the nation, that it is not surprising if a movement, having for its basis a spirit and a purpose violently opposed to our national creed of liberty and justice to all men, should have received but little, and that contemptuous, notice from the respectable public.

In a speech delivered at Zanesville, Ohio, last October, Judge Ball, a distinguished Protestant citizen, a leading jurist and an ex-member of Congress, said of the A. P. A.: "I am satisfied, and I have been for months, that that organization is a scouting party for the Republicans, sent out by the Republican party to do its dirty work, the most of them not knowing why they do it." In an editorial denouncing the conspiracy, the *Indianapolis Sentinel* asserts, that the society "was organized for political purposes and is controlled for political purposes by Republicans."

High minded, patriotic utterances, such as the Boston speech of Mr. Roosevelt and the public expressions of other gentlemen, who, like him, are Republicans, show that it would be unfair to charge the deliberate perpetration of the A. P. A. infamy upon the entire Republican party.

In the course of his Zanesville speech, already quoted from, Judge Ball did not mince words in the following remarks, which are commended to all American citizens, and particularly to those who, like the speaker himself, are Protestants, but who have not lost their love of liberty and justice because they are so:

"There have been two events in the past thirty years that could not have happened in any other country on the globe

in any age. We suppressed a great rebellion, and not a drop of blood was shed in punishment of that rebellion. This could have occurred in no other country, and nowhere in history or human nature can you find a parallel to it. The other event occurred the other day in Chicago. They had a Congress of religions. The Protestants and Catholics and Mohammedans and the Buddhists, they were all in conclave together. There was no A. P. A. Association there." (Applause.)

"No such religious assembly ever met before. These two events hang the lights on the pathway of humanity higher than human hands ever hung them before; and when I look up and see the brilliancy of their rays reaching out and illuminating the other side of the globe, I feel a swelling pride that I am an American and a citizen of this republic." (Applause.)

"And then I turn and look down into a deep, dark, cavernous valley. I see toads, lizards, and scorpions, and snakes and adders, and slime and vermin. Shut out from the light of the sun; shut out from the light of christianity; shut out from the light of truth; shut out from the light of mercy; shut out from all that is good; down in that dark valley I see an assembly of the A. P. A." (Tremendous applause.)

"I trust that no one will complain of me for speaking of them in connection with this religious gathering in Chicago, for I present the one as the highest achievement of humanity, and I present the other as the most godforsaken remnant of the human race."

"There is a rule you may adopt with perfect safety, and that is, that all secret political societies are enemies

to the government under which they exist. I love a secret political society under a despotism, and I despise it under a republic. (Applause.) They hold their meetings and their membership secret. They are either enemies to the government and don't dare disclose it, or they are cowards and afraid to take the responsibility of their own conduct, or they are ashamed of the work they are doing. I hope it is the last, for that is the only thing that can be creditable to them."

WHO MIGHT BE THE NEXT VICTIM.

There is an element of sublime impudence in American antagonism to foreigners as such, since the most ancient among us are American not further back than a few generations at most, and very few of us, at least in the northern and western states, can show as much as three generations of unmixed native born ancestry. The late General Butler has stated that of the seventy-two thousand Massachusetts troops in the war of secession, forty-two thousand were foreigners; while in the thick and front of the same struggle there were at least thirty-five, and perhaps forty, regiments of Union troops every officer and man of which was a Catholic.

It is unnecessary at this time to multiply incidents and illustrations of the operations of the treasonable society under consideration. It has been condemned everywhere, by every desirable or representative element of American society. Its application for a charter in Kansas was refused by the Secretary of State and Attorney General. The former,

Mr. Osborn, a Protestant minister, said of the application: "When this charter was presented and I examined it, I failed to see how I could conscientiously perform my duties as an official of this State, and file a charter for a corporation of citizens to fight another body of citizens, who are worshipping the Lord after the dictates of their consciences."

It might happen, though, at some future time, that some other peaceful, law abiding, producing and patriotic element would become the hated thing of intolerance, bigotry and fanaticism. A. P. A.'ism, if allowed now, and tolerated, because it has the support of persons and interests of individual power or importance, might be some time directed at any class or individual, who should fall under the displeasure of its leaders or managers. Foreigners and American Catholics having been subdued and disposed of, who knows but that the next step might be an attempt to wipe out the Jews. The A. P. A. might convince the nation that Hebrews had become image worshippers, because of their well known adoration of the female figure of Liberty on the dollar of the country. Or it might occur to A. P. A. philosophy, that our Hebrew friends never did any pioneer work on the continent, nor put in an appearance here until the wealth, which they have since so rapidly absorbed, had already been created by the combined labors of American people. Nobody can tell where the A. P. A. blight might fall.

That great and true American weapon of reform, the ballot, may be able to impress events so that liberal, fair minded, honest and tolerant people will be put in enough

places of power to secure legislation and executive action, of a kind and quality adequate to crush out this, and all like conspiracies, against the Constitution of the United States and the rights and liberties of an important element of its citizenship. To accomplish this it will require the votes of Americans of all creeds and beliefs, who love liberty and believe in freedom of conscience and the free exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

An American.



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